

INFORMAL CHAT: Islanders Center Bryan Trottler and Winger Mike Bossy engaged in lockerroom conversation.

The art of hockey

By LAURA VECSEY

One of Bruce Bennett's initial forays

Islander pre-season exhibition game. He was a student at C.W. Post, had shot a couple of rolls of film and decided that taking pictures was something he liked. He also liked hockey, so he combined the two, and after having these first rolls of film developed which depicted the fledgling Islanders pursuing the puck, he sent them off to Hockey News in Montreal. The pictures were accepted for publication and Bennett was signed on as a consultant photographer for the New York teams.

Now, twelve years later, Bruce Bennett can comfortably call himself one of the best sports photographers around, specializing in hockey. He is a modest man, but sure of his place in the sport.

"Everyone around the world knows to call me for hockey pictures, Bennett

says, adding that it's a recognition he can easily live with.

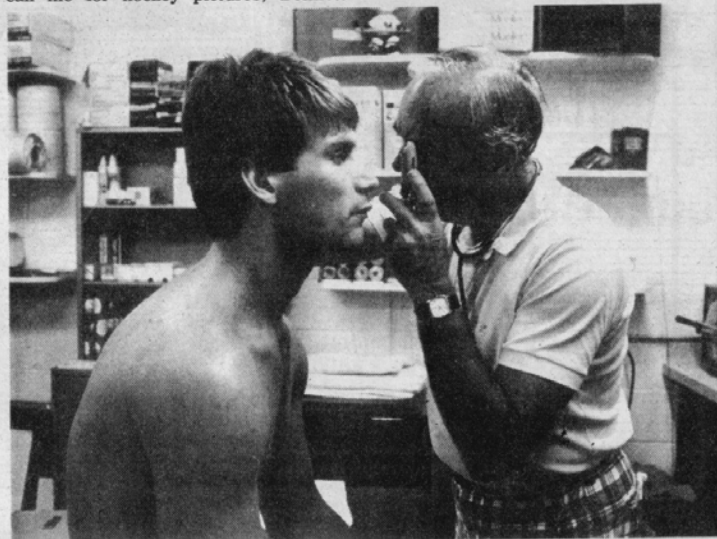
Bennett has reached such a level of success because his hockey photographs go beyond the game itself. The photographs depict many different levels - from the artistic framing of a shot, to the expressions on the players' faces. But perhaps most importantly, Bennett, as the official photographer for the New York Islanders, has been illuminating the players as the men they are behind the scenes.

"After a while, the action shots begin to look like the same thing," Bennett admitted, which is why he felt compelled to focus his lens on the players off the ice.

"I wanted to go behind the scenes so the fans could see what goes into making a winning team -- the player interaction, their family lives -- to present hockey as an art," Bennett said.



GREETING A SPECIAL FAN: Islanders left wing John Tonelli embraces his smiling son prior to one of the Islanders softball team's frequent charity games.



LET'S SEE -- Islanders Team Internist Dr. George Gilbert examines the eyes of Forward Mats Hallin.

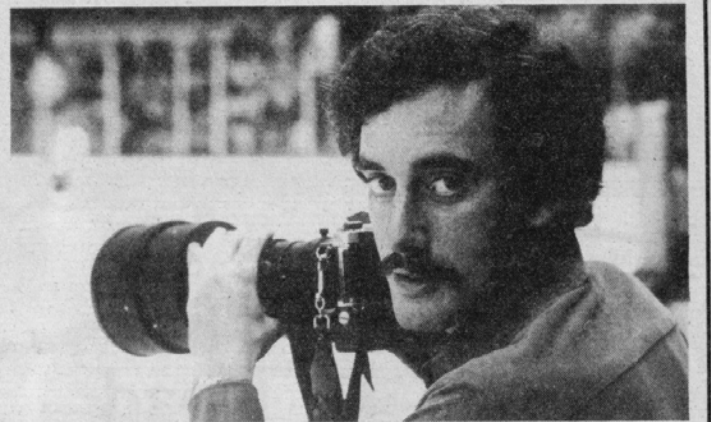


Photo exhibit reveals on- and off-ice action

Bruce Bennett will be given a one-man show by his alma mater, Long Island University's C.W. Post Campus.

More than 50 Bennett photos are included in the exhibition, which opens June 21 and continues through July 12 in the first floor art gallery in Hillwood Commons, the student union at LIU-C.W. Post. Gallery hours are noon through 5 p.m. Tuesday - Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free.

Bennett, a member of the class of

1978, has had his photos appear in every major American sports magazine, as well as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life* and *People*. He was recently named the winner of five top prizes in the annual competition of the Long Island Press Photographers Association.

The June 21 - July 12 show will be devoted entirely to Bennett shots of the New York Islanders and include many action and "behind-the-scenes" shots never published or exhibited.